a dip coating technique and other general-purpose coating techniques may be employed for the coating use. Among the techniques, the dip coating technique may be preferably used for coating the alkoxide solution onto the powder.

Please replace the paragraph on page 4, line 18, beginning with "The alkoxide-coated powder is" as follows:

The alkoxide-coated powder is then dried at 120°C for about 5 hours in an oven. The drying step is to uniformly distribute lithium salts in the powder. Thereafter, the dried powder is heat-treated at temperatures ranged from 200 to 1000°C for 1 to 20 hours under an oxidation atmosphere where dry air or oxygen is blowing. When the heat-treating temperature is lower than 200°C, the metallic or silicon alkoxide solution coated on the powder is not crystallized so that it prohibits free movement of lithium ions in the active material. It is preferable that the heat-treating step is performed at temperatures ranged from 300 to 900°C for 1 to 10 hours. This heat-treating operation makes the metallic or silicon alkoxide to be changed into an oxide. In this way, a metallic or silicon oxide-coated active material is prepared.

Please replace the paragraph on page 5, line 6, beginning with "The metallic oxide formed on the surface" as follows:

The metallic or silicon oxide formed on the surface of the power may be derived from the single metallic or silicon alkoxide source or the composite sources of manganese of lithiated transition metal compound and metallic or non-metallic alkoxide. The thickness of the metallic oxide layer reaches up to 1 to 100nm and the quantity of metal content is ranged from 1.0 to 10 weight percent of the metallic oxide.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows, without prejudice:

1. (Three Times Amended) A positive active material for rechargeable lithium batteries, the positive active material comprising:

an active material component processed from a manganese-based compound, the manganese-based compound being selected from the group consisting of Li_xMnO_2, Li_xMnF_2, Li_xMnS_2, $Li_xMn_{1-y}M_yO_2$, $Li_xMn_{1-y}M_yO_{2-z}F_z$, $Li_xMn_{1-y}M_yO_{2-z}S_z$, $Li_xMn_2O_4$, $Li_xMn_2F_4$, $Li_xMn_2S_4$, $Li_xMn_{2-y}M_yO_4$, $Li_xMn_{2-y}M_yO_{4-z}F_z$, and $Li_xMn_{2-y}M_yO_{4-z}S_z$, where $0<x<1.5$, $0.05\leq y\leq 0.3$, $z\leq 1.0$ and M is selected from the group consisting of Al, Co, Cr, Mg, Fe and La; and